

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. Claims 1-11 are rejected.

Claims 1-3 and 8-9 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Afghahi. Claims 4-6 and 10-11 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Afghahi. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Afghahi in view of Arcus. Claim 1, as amended, includes "...wherein the ring oscillators are directly cross coupled such that each ring oscillator drives only one other ring oscillator." Claim 8, as amended, includes "...directly cross-coupling the ring oscillators such that each ring oscillator drives one and only one other ring oscillator." The references of record do not show, teach, or suggest the above recited limitations of claims 1 and 8. The Afghahi reference does not teach the above limitations of claims 1 and 8. For example, the Afghahi reference does not teach directly cross-coupling the ring oscillators. The Afghahi reference has locking circuits L1 and L2 coupled between the ring oscillators. Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1. Claims 9-11 depend from claim 8. Therefore, claims 1-11 are believed to be allowable over the references of record.

It is believed that the above remarks are fully responsive to the Official Action. Reconsideration and allowance are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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